

## RUITER ON PORTER

RA 1 PLAIN LANGUAGE

**OTHER OFFICERS WHO KNEW OF IT.**

The Admiral Comes Back at His Caustic  
Antagonist With

General Butler has given the name of the officer who he says showed cowardice at the famous battle of New Orleans. He asserts that it was none other than Admiral Porter. He relates in full the circumstances surrounding the event. Mr. Porter contents himself with giving a funny story in rela-

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE DISPATCH.]

BOSTON, May 4.—The *Herald* will print a talk with General Butler about his reference to a high officer who ran away at New Orleans. To a direct question General Butler replied:

"Suppose you have Admiral Porter read my speech and then ask him if he knows who I mean."

"Will you give me a statement of the circumstances involved in this running away?" asked the reporter. The General replied:

At the time the forts were passed by Farragut, I was following him where I could see the

The fight. Porter was in command of the mortar battery, and was ordered to bombard the water batteries below Fort Jackson after Farragut had passed up. While Farragut was passing up the river, he saw the rebel gunners under a heavy hot fire, for when Farragut was by the forts the rebels turned their attention to me.

It was not a nice state of things for us who were on board that boat, with 800 barrels of powder in the hold, as we dropped down the river far enough so the point of woods hid us from the rebel batteries. I afterward learned a double end of Porter and kept well up stream watching things.

THE MORNING OF THE BATTLE

Farragut got well by the forts about sunrise, and it was about 7 o'clock, or after, perhaps, before, that he commenced with his fleet.

Where was your army?  
Nearly 30 miles down stream on transports  
which were anchored at the head of the  
passes.  
Was it time that Captain Porter ran away?  
About the time I have mentioned in the  
morning my men on the transports saw Porter's  
whole fleet pulled down the river pull mast,  
and they continued out to sea.  
Did you see the treacherous boats?  
When Porter rushed by my troops he cried out:  
"The rebels are coming down the river;  
get out of here as fast as you can."  
Did your troops get out?  
Get out? Not much. Why the men were  
not allowed to leave the boats and they had  
attempted to let go of the "new" current wheel  
they were then down, and they would all

troaction was certainly by any force coming down the river.

And did Porter sail down and leave the army to its fate?

That is just what he did.

When did he recover and come back?

The next day.

Where were you when he left so suddenly?

AN ENTIRE SURPRISE.

Up the river I never dreamed of his turning back. I had no mail to the north, and did not know of this occurrence until several days afterward, at the time when Captain Boggs, went by Farragut, gotten up at the quarantine station where I had been sent, and on through Pass Outter and up a bayon around by Sable Island and so above Fort St. Philip, for the purpose of assaulting

"Rebels coming! The rebels were not coming down the river as Farragut stated?"

"Rebels coming! The rebels were not coming down the river as they are now. Why, they couldn't come. The only thing they had was the ponderous dry dock, the Louisiana, and the two steamers to tow her. The Louisiana could not move up the river because she couldn't even be used as a water battery. That was all the rebels had left that could move up the river before they ran the river."

"Why did he run, then?"

"I can't tell, except that it was reported that the enemy was transforming heavy guns from the Mississippi into batteries. I am sure that the Louisiana was coming down the stream after him."

"What did you do when Porter left and went back?"

"When Farragut left me and passed the forts we had agreed that I should attempt to go down the river."

**BUTLER WORKED HARD.**

Farragut had left most of his boats—50 or 60 of them—hid in the bushes on the river bank below and I hauled them all out and towed them along to land my troops with. I steamed down the river and took two full regiments from the fleet and they were glad enough to get out of that because of Porter's scare. We went around and it was a hard piece of work to move those troops. Why my men were in the water was because of the boats. They were ashore, and we all had a time of it. We got above above the forts and I took what I could get. I was not in the water. I was landed that I heard of Porter's performance.

Admiral Porter this morning took occasion to deny the insinuation that he was the officer referred to by General Butler. When he first read the article, the Admiral understood that the allusion did particularly refer to himself. While under this impression he remarked that he could tell a "dog story" on Ben that would make that vet soldier, lawyer and politician wince.

PORTER'S STORY.

The Admiral dictated the story, intending

to him, said it would appear vindictive and he preferred silence. The story in effect was an experience shortly after the war occurred to the Admiral. "A little boy came to me," he said, "with a dog to sell. I asked him what he wanted for the brute and he answered 23 cents for this dog and 25 cents for the rope."

"What's his name?"

"Ben," said the boy. "He is named after

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